

WHEN a member of the House rises in his place to deliver a few remarks, which he intends later to distribute among an admiring constituency, an official stenographer is at hand to take down the words of the statesman, which, next morning, appear duly set forth on the printed pages of the Congressional Record. When the reporter has taken down about 1,000 words he retires, his place being filled by another to continue the work. The first man goes into a room and dictates into a phonograph the "English" of his stenographic notes and returns to the floor. An amanuensis then transcribes the report of the speech from the phonograph to typewritten paper, which is revised by the stenographer, and goes to the government printer to be printed in the record. The routine is thus continued among the five reporters. This, in brief, is the system of reporting speeches, the most perfect of any system in use in any national legislative body in the world.

The adoption of an official system of congressional reporting in 1848-9 was due to the one fact, more than any other, that the phonetic shorthand of Isaac Pitman, invented in its crudest form in 1837, rapidly improved during the years immediately following, furnished a reporting instrument vastly superior to the prior stenographic systems in simplicity, in ease of acquisition, and in adaptability to rapid note-taking. The introduction of this system into the United States about 1844, in connection with the "swelling reform" agitation, was the means of educating a new breed of reporters, most of them bright, progressive young men who were soon able to surpass in short-

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## FAILURES OF A YEAR

### STATISTICS OF COMMERCIAL COLLAPSES IN 1896.

Number of Failures for 1896 Has Been Larger than in Any Previous Year Except 1893—Figures from Dun's Review Are Correct.

#### BUSINESS DISASTERS.

Commercial authorities state that the number of failures for 1896 has been larger than in any previous year excepting 1893, and about 14,300, against 13,177 last year, and that the aggregate of defaulted commercial liabilities alone have been about \$224,700,000, against \$173,196,000 last year, an increase in number of about 12 per cent, and in liabilities of about 29 per cent. This report would be more disheartening if the comparison of failures by months did not show that over \$36,000,000 of the increase was in the two months of extreme political agitation—August and September—and was due to conditions which happily passed with those months. With about 21 per cent, increase thus explained, the remaining increase of less than 9 per cent, does not appear great. While the returns for December are not yet exact, the history of the year's commercial disasters is otherwise correctly stated in the following:

	1896.	1895.
January	\$21,735,743	\$15,330,804
February	13,120,451	11,994,263
March	22,558,941	20,482,611
April	12,487,347	10,966,450
May	12,296,348	10,227,606
June	15,660,505	18,832,196
July	15,501,919	10,443,198
August	28,006,637	17,783,309
September	27,774,917	10,953,032
October	14,880,236	15,886,750
November	12,700,856	12,150,329
December	26,000,000	24,051,858

For the last quarter of 1893 the figures are:

	October	November	December
	\$28,167,814	16,302,802	19,651,471

The comparison with returns of the closing months of 1893 has not hitherto been published, as the reporting forces of all the offices had not then become sufficiently familiar with the improved method of ascertaining accuracy, it is now pointed out that the returns are substantially correct. The manufacturing failures in that quarter were about \$27,503,357 in amount and the trading about \$30,513,865, with \$6,004,067 of brokers and other commercial concerns. The manufacturing failures by months are separately shown as follows:

	1896.	1895.
January	\$8,582,900	\$3,305,307
February	5,402,363	3,694,779
March	9,410,322	13,040,307
April	4,322,324	4,320,646
May	4,024,184	3,400,001
June	5,088,649	12,150,408
July	5,088,649	2,802,517
August	13,100,249	4,131,488
September	11,510,007	5,207,110
October	6,130,394	6,801,941
November	4,651,017	4,247,983
December	11,300,000	10,263,485

For the last quarter of 1893:

	October	November	December
	\$12,010,000	6,223,447	8,363,248

The trading failures by months:

	1896.	1895.
January	\$12,149,629	\$11,225,890
February	6,606,676	7,430,489
March	12,675,607	6,834,041
April	5,529,745	6,616,710
May	7,694,767	6,142,205
June	7,324,780	7,231,021
July	6,906,335	6,704,530
August	9,056,008	6,260,841
September	12,773,874	5,458,707
October	7,416,822	8,280,188
November	7,480,238	6,987,043
December	13,500,000	13,828,679

For the last quarter:

	October	November	December
	\$11,932,551	7,699,174	10,863,640

In 1894 the January failures reached \$2,819,232 a higher aggregate than in any other month for three years, because the yearly settlements brought home disaster to many who had been weakened by the panic of 1893. There followed a swift decline in magnitude of liabilities, and throughout 1894 the range was comparatively low, both in manufacturing and in trading, and it did not greatly change until December it reached \$22,903,053, in which month a considerable rise nearly every year precedes the annual settlements. In 1895 the failures, following such settlements were unusually low, and the range would again have been low through most of the year except for specially large manufacturing failures in two months, May and June, which included the Cordage Company for nearly \$10,000,000, the Walter Wood Harvester Company and the Manning brewery. The December rise was slightly greater than in 1894, and subsequent failures in January indicated that the wrecks had been less thoroughly cleared away.

This year the marked rise in March was directly traced to the fact that several large manufacturing and two large dry goods houses had failed to distribute goods produced or purchased in 1895, and the subsequent decrease promised a fair consumer record when there came the political agitation and alarm already mentioned. This disturbance affected manufacturing concerns first and most largely, though others of importance afterward suffered.

The ratio of liabilities to all firms in business is about 30 per cent, smaller than in the third quarter with its disastrous excitement, although slightly larger than in the fourth quarter of last year. This raises the average for the year about 30 per cent above last year's, but not near to that of 1893 or some earlier years of misfortune.

The ratio of defaulted liabilities to payments through clearing houses, which are taken as roughly representing the volume of solvent business, was in the fourth quarter \$3,77 to \$1,000, against \$3,46 in the previous quarter of political alarm. This makes the ratio for the entire year \$4,37, which has been surpassed since 1873 only in the years 1884 and 1893. Compared with last year the increase is nearly a third, although most of the excess occurred, as has been shown, in only two months.

The Brazilian treasury delegate writes to the London Times with reference to the sale at Hamburg of 34,000 bags of Brazilian coffee, which, it was reported, were believed to be a consignment of the Brazilian Government to the Rothschilds of London in lieu of bills to pay the interest on the Brazilian debt. The treasury delegate writes that the Rothschilds already had sufficient funds to pay for the coupons on the external debts.

Charles B. Purish, one of the oldest and wealthiest coal operators in Pennsylvania, died suddenly at Philadelphia.

but the aggregate of liabilities was only \$20,710,210. The railroad receiverships during the year 1890 embrace 4,559 miles, with stock issues amounting to \$73,397,800 and bonded and other indebtedness amounting to \$163,252,724. The bonded indebtedness was slightly larger than in 1895, but the stock very much smaller.

#### SWEEP BY A BLIZZARD.

Many Western States Are Struck by a Furious Storm.

Press dispatches tell of a furious blizzard which has swept over almost the entire Northwest. The visitation has also extended to the Southern States, where it manifested itself as a tornado and drenching rain storm. In Nebraska the storm was accompanied by heavy snow with the thermometer at zero. Telegraphic reports from the extreme western section of the State, where most of the suffering would occur during a blizzard, indicate that little snow has fallen. It is in the western counties where several lives were lost trying to reach their homes. In Western Missouri, throughout Kansas and in the territories trains were delayed by snow drifts. A fall of about forty degrees has been experienced at most points.

Reports from 100 Minnesota and North and South Dakota points indicate that it has been the greatest storm of the winter. In Northern Minnesota it snowed steadily for twenty hours. At Niles, Mich., for seventy-two hours, rain fell steadily, and fears were entertained that

the storm was trying to reach its home.

The greatest suffering from the storm in Arkansas is reported at Benton, where half a dozen small frame houses were demolished and several freight cars standing at the station were overturned. Several persons were more or less injured and many had narrow escapes and thrilling experiences. The storm was severest in the southern portion of the State, and it is not unlikely that casualties occurred in some of the numerous lumber camps in that section. All the towns between Little Rock and Texarkana suffered more or less damage, and reports from the country give several instances of damage to farm houses and cabins.

The relief train of the Kansas City, Shreveport and Gulf arrived in Shreveport, La., from Morrisport, the scene of Saturday's severe storm, bringing in the wounded. Two of the four Goodman children killed were found 100 yards from their home with their clothes stripped from their bodies, which were bruised and mangled. The path of the storm was narrow and short, but terrific in destructiveness. The body of a man who was blown from the bridge has been recovered, but is not identified. A man whose name is not given is missing. It is believed he was killed, but the body has not been found. A number of women visited the hospital and provided garments for the injured.

The most disastrous wreck that has occurred in Missouri for years happened near New Haven. The Missouri Pacific track is built on the bank of the river, most of the way to St. Louis. At the point where the wreck occurred the small streams from the bluffs had washed out the road, and when freight No. 128 was passing this place the track gave way, the engine sinking in the river and eighteen cars following. The killed are: J. G. Evans, engineer; Fred Hanekamp, fireman; James McGuire, head brakeman. A number of other trainmen are reported seriously injured. Two carloads of miles went down in the wreck, besides a large amount of freight.

"Repent ye," as we have said before, the word translated "repent" means "change your minds," "reform your lives." It is not confined to sorrow for sin but includes the turning away from sin. "Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;" the importance of baptism is clearly shown in the Acts by the way in which the command to be baptized is coupled repeatedly with the command to believe.

"And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost;" this is the order henceforth to be followed, says Peter: repentance, that is, reformation; the human side of the change, which we call conversion; then baptism, and the gift of the Spirit.

Here Peter uses one of his strongest arguments, the appeal to the chosen people. They, of all men, should be ready to accept the gracious offer of salvation, for their race was chosen for the high honor of being the bearers of the gospel; "all that are afar off."

"They have continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship;" the pre-eminence of the apostles, the deference that was paid to their interpretation of truth and their church usages, appears plainly in the New Testament. Attempts have been made to belittle this authority, to deny that the apostles had any better claim to determine the form of Christian theology or of the constitution of the church than men of later ages. But the special aid and inspiration which was promised them, and of the possession of which they showed evidence, is sufficient to answer these objections.

"In breaking of bread;" referring to the Lord's Supper; the observance of which had probably not yet become established at any fixed time, such as once a month, as with us.

Now Peter's sermon brought conviction to his hearers. He accused them of having assisted, or at least sympathized, in the murder of the one who was the fulfilment of prophecies and the destined Savior of Israel. The work of the Spirit evidently was "already" begun, though it had not taken up its abode in these inquirers. They heard the plain, unvarnished truth, and it humbled their pride and brought them to the point of surrender. This sermon was certainly faithful preaching.

When the apostles were asked for the way of escape, there was no hesitating for an answer. There were just two things to do, reform their lives as commanded by Christ, and then show that reformation to the world by being baptized. It is noticeable that the nature of faith seems to have been but little developed in the early church when inquirers were being dealt with.

The work of the apostles was not ended when they got converted into the church. They had an immense service of instruction and guidance to perform. The thousands of converts at Pentecost and the following days would probably have gone back into Judaism if they had been abandoned immediately on their baptism, and left to file themselves and instruct themselves. The duty of training young converts is fully as important a part of the church's mission as that of bringing them into the church in the first place. The apostles and their followers preached, taught and sought out the people. But it was the Lord who added them to the church. Multitudes can be converted today just as well as at Pentecost, but it takes Spirit-filled men to accomplish the work, and a united church to make permanent its results.

Next Lesson—The lame man

# The Avalanche

O. PALMER, Publisher.

GRAYLING, MICHIGAN.

## THEY WERE A MENACE

### FORTUNATE THAT SOME BANKS HAVE FAILED.

The Year Starts Out Upon a Sound Financial Foundation — Reported Threat of Recognition of Cuban Independence—Sad Fatality in Texas.

#### Unsound Ventures Burst.

R. G. Dur & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: "The year 1897 begins with one clear advantage. The last year has swept out of the way a great number of unsound concerns which in any time of activity would have been dangerous to business. Of the 15,256 commercial and banking failures in 1896, with liabilities of \$276,815,740, a large share represented crippling losses in previous years, or the violence of speculative storms in 1895 or the first half of 1896, while thousands more resulted from the fury of the political tornado last fall. Banking failures amounted to \$50,718,915 during the year averaged \$156,156 each, and were 135 per cent larger than in 1895. Commercial failures amounted to \$220,095,834, a little over \$1,000,000 having been added by the last day of the year, but the average of liabilities, \$14,952, was smaller than in some years of great prosperity. The failures of brokerage and 'other' commercial concerns averaged \$55,418 each, increasing 183 per cent over 1895, while manufacturing failures averaged \$28,808 each, and increased 34 per cent, and trading failures increased 18 per cent and averaged only \$9,006 each. Over four-fifths of the increase in manufacturing and trading failures was in lumber manufacturing. While banking failures have not ceased at the West, apprehension about them has almost wholly subsided and no serious influence upon general trade is now expected. Many sound concerns were doubtless caught by the epidemic, but practically all the important failures are traced to disregard of law and of banking sense at periods small distant. It is felt at the West that all business will be the sounder after its purging."

#### NO HOPE FOR SPAIN.

**Senator-elect Money Says She Cannot Conquer Cuba.**  
Senator-elect Money, in an interview given Sunday to the Associated Press, says: "I have just returned after a two weeks' absence on a visit to Cuba. I went there to personally inform myself, for my own guidance as a member of the House-Foreign Affairs Committee, as to the condition of things in the Islands. Accounts have been so conflicting and the reports from Hayaya so divergent, that I concluded to make some personal discovery in the matter for myself. At the very outset I will say that everything I saw and heard taught me that Spain is unable to cope with this insurrection. She will never put it down; Spain will never end this war with victory to herself. This is also the opinion of Consul General Fitzhugh Lee, and has heretofore expressed it to Secretary Olney. He has told the Secretary of State that the insurrectionists, whether soon or later, were bound to succeed.

**Minister Taylor Warns Spain.**  
A minister to the New York Journal from Madrid says that a bold and extraordinary letter has been addressed to the Spanish Government by Minister Taylor, which said to the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs that unless Spain offers clean and reasonable terms as a basis of peace in Cuba before President Cleveland goes out of office, the question remaining to be settled by the United States would be the immediate and unconditional recognition of the Cuban republic.

**Found a Watery Grave.**  
News has been received of the drowning of five children as a result of the floods in Texas County, Missouri. Thomas Wilson, accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. Kinney, and her five children, attempted to ford Prairie Creek, which was very high as a result of recent rains. The horses became unmanageable, and soon lost their foothold. The wagon, weighted with its human freight, sank, and the sideboards floated away, throwing the entire party into the water.

**Whole Town Under Water.**  
The entire town of Linn Creek, Mo., is under water, the Osage River having risen seventeen inches higher than ever before known. The water is five feet deep in the court house and the ferryboat from the river, which is a mile from the city, is making regular trips through the main streets, carrying merchandise, provisions, household goods, etc., from the inundated buildings.

#### Far Northern Railroads Ask Charters.

The Winnipeg, Duluth and Hudson Bay Railway is applying for a charter for a railway from a point south of Lake of the Woods to Winnipeg City and thence to deep water in Hudson Bay. The Manitoba and Pacific Railway is also making application for power to build a road through Crow's Nest Pass to the Pacific coast, in British territory.

**Power Warned by the Pope.**  
The London Standard's Rome correspondent asserts that the Pope has decided to notify Austria, France, Spain and Portugal that the powers will not be allowed to exercise a veto at the next Papal election.

#### Town Near Havana Captured.

Havana dispatch: The sensation of the hour is that the town of Arroyo Narano, which is only seven miles from Havana, has been taken by the insurgents. The garrison and the authorities made no resistance.

#### Hanged by a Mob.

Simon Cooper, a negro outlaw who murdered three members of the Wilson family and a colored servant, was lynched near Sumter, S. C., Friday. Cooper was captured by the sheriff's posse and was being taken to Sumter when a mob intervened.

#### Immigrants for 1896.

The number of steerage passengers landed at Ellis Island during the year 1895 was 252,350. There were 99,223 cabin passengers landed at the port of New York during the same period.

#### Girl Burned to Death.

The Westminster Gazette gives prominence to a report that Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Royal, has enjoyed the longest reign in English history by abdicating in favor of the Prince of Wales.

#### Col. L. Severy Badly Injured.

A Bombay dispatch reports that all the leading journals there describe the famine as the most widespread of the present century. It is the general opinion that the rice crop is failing.

#### Goes Through the House.

The Loud bill to amend the law relating to second-class mail matter was

#### NOT YET LYNCHED.

**Singular Forgiveness Shown Toward Alabama Train Wreckers.**

Four of the five train-wreckers in jail at Birmingham, Ala., confessed to the attempt to wreck the Southern Railway's fast express at McCoub's trestle, on the night of Dec. 19. This confession leads the belief that the same gang removed the rails which wrecked the Birmingham mineral train at Cahaba River bridge, causing the death of twenty-six people and injuring eleven others on Dec. 20, though the trestle at that time was still intact. Five negroes, Andrew Feagin, Tom Ingram, Tom Parker, Emmanuel Billings, and Rome Seale, were arrested by deputy sheriffs and railroad detectives. All but Feagin confessed. Parker says that Feagin was the leader of the plot, that he proposed the wrecking of trains one night at a dance as a good scheme by which to get Christ's money. They went to McCoub's trestle by night and entered upon the work of drawing out spikes and removing bolts from the rails. The plan was to club to death and shoot those passengers who were not killed by the crash when the train fell to the ravine ninety feet below, but the engineer stopped his train before it left the trestle.

#### TOO MANY BANKS.

#### Strained Condition in Financial Circles in Kansas.

State Bank Commissioner John W. Brattain predicts that the number of Kansas banking institutions will decrease materially within the next two years, if not be cut in two. He says there are too many banks in Kansas now for the amount of business transacted, and he is advising consolidation in every place where it is feasible. "It is simply a question of time whether many of these institutions shall go into voluntary liquidation or be forced to suspend," said the Commissioner, "and in order to prevent the latter I have advised a general consolidation all over the State, especially in the smaller towns." The oversupply of banks came into existence during boom, and while capital has since diminished, there has been no perceptible decrease in the number of institutions. The deputy commissioners who have just returned from a tour of the State, examining all banks, report that in nearly every town or city the bankers are figuring with each other on a plan of consolidation in accordance with the advice of the Commissioners.

#### ST. PAUL BANKS GO DOWN.

#### Three-Institutions Close Their Doors Monday.

The Germania Bank of St. Paul, a State institution, capital \$400,000, did not open for business Monday, but announced its assignment to Peter M. Kerst, who for the last year or two has been the cashier of the bank. The Allemannia Bank, capital \$400,000, having a clientele similar to that of the Germania, closed its doors soon after the other bank had announced its assignment. A few

#### Young Farmers Implicated in the Blue Cut Hold-Up.

Officers came in to Independence, Mo., from Cracker Neck district with another culprit who is charged with complicity in the Blue Cut hold-up. The prisoner is a young farmer named George Dowlin. He is reported to have made a confession in which he corroborates the confession of Flynn, implicating John F. Kennedy, as the leader of the band, and several others still at large.

#### ARBUCKLES ARE FOXY.

#### Effectually Checkmate the Pines of the Sugar Trust.

The reported sale at Toledo of the Spence-Acklin shares of the Woolson Spice Company stock to the sugar trust last Saturday brought forth an emphatic denial from New York that the Hayemeyer had bought the shares, and it is now said that the deal was made by J. M. Turner, the confidential financial man of the Archbuckles. It was seen that the Archbuckles have made a deal with the Woolson Spice Company in the hands of a receiver, should the sugar trust try to run the concern at a loss to break down the firm of Archbuckles Bros., who have recently entered the sugar trade.

#### CAPERS OF A CYCLONE.

#### Blew Down Great Mills and Injured Many People.

The cyclone Saturday night did great damage along the Cotton Belt Road, fall reports of which have just been received.

At Motz, Ark., the gin house and gristmill of George Mills were completely destroyed and Mr. Mills was fatally injured. Many others were more or less injured. A tremendous rise is reported in the Red River, threatening the bridge of the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Road.

#### Three Senators Named.

The contest at Harrisburg, Pa., for the succession to the seat in the United States Senate occupied by J. Donald Cameron, was finally settled in the joint party caucus of the Republican members of the Legislature, who chose State Senator Bots Penrose, of Philadelphia. At Sacramento, Cal., George C. Perkins was declared the nominee by the joint Republican caucus. It is settled that Charles W. Fairbanks will be the next United States Senator from Indiana.

#### Cut in Ohio Mines.

Notices have been posted at all the mines in the Massillon, O., district of reduction in the price of pick mining from 61 cents to 51 cents per ton. The notice says a rate of 60 cents has been agreed upon in Pennsylvania.

#### Gold Coins Arrive from Hayti.

The first gold landed from a foreign port in several weeks was received Wednesday at New York from Port-au-Prince, Hayti—\$100,000 in American coin.

#### Rich Vein of Silver Is Struck.

On the Silver Mountain Lode, near Hill City, S. D., ore was struck Wednesday that assayed ninety-nine ounces of silver per ton.

#### MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$2.50 to \$5.75; hogs, slippings, grades, \$2.00 to \$3.75; sheep, fair to choice, \$2.00 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 2 red, 7c to 75c; corn, No. 2, 22c; oats, 2c; No. 2 white, 2c to 25c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$3.00 to \$5.25; hogs, \$2.00 to \$4.75; wheat, No. 2, 9c to 93c; corn, No. 2, 2c to 20c; oats, 2c to 21c; No. 2 white, 2c to 24c.

Richmond—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.00; hogs, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, \$2.50 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 2, 9c to 96c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 2c to 23c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 10c to 12c; rye, No. 2, 35c to 37c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.25; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.00; sheep, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2, 9c to 93c; corn, No. 2, 2c to 22c; oats, No. 2 white, 10c to 21c; rye, No. 2, 3c to 36c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.00; hogs, \$3.00 to \$3.75; sheep, \$2.50 to \$4.00; wheat, No. 2, 9c to 96c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 2c to 23c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 10c to 12c; rye, No. 2, 35c to 37c.

Indians—Cattle, \$2.50 to \$5.25; hogs, \$3.00 to \$4.00; sheep, \$2.00 to \$3.75; wheat, No. 2, 9c to 93c; corn, No. 2, 2c to 22c; oats, No. 2 white, 10c to 21c; rye, No. 2, 3c to 36c.

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Minneapolis—Wheat, No. 2 spring, 7c to 75c; corn, No. 2, 9c to 96c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 2c to 23c; oats, No. 2 white, 10c to 21c; rye, No. 2, 35c to 37c.

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In drawing manure that the two-horse team is most essential, for it is the practice to make the manure box very large so that two good horses are required to draw it.—Cultivator.

#### Well-Managed Orchards.

An orchard well managed may be made to pay several times as much for the land occupied and the labor spent as the best field on the farm. But it will be a poor investment if it is neglected and suffered to go to ruin. Cultivation is indispensable to enable the soil to contribute its fertility to the trees. The surface must not be left untouched to become covered with rank weeds or moss, to lie bare and barren. There is nothing better than a crop of clover, and this should be permitted to die down and decay on the surface. A plow should never be suffered in an orchard, says the New York Times. Only the surface should be stirred, lest the fine feeding roots may be injured and the trees checked in their growth. A good harrowing in the fall and two or three in the summer will be all the cultivation an orchard requires.

#### Feeding Stock on Browses.

In times of scarcity cattle are sometimes driven to the woods and allowed to feed on the twigs of young trees growing near the ground, or of the top boughs of trees that have been felled for this purpose. The bass wood is the best of trees for this purpose, though twigs of the beech were often thought nearly as good. It is on such feed as this that deer largely subsist in cold weather, when the snow is too deep for them to reach the ground. But if much stock has to be kept on browse, it requires more labor than to cut and cure hay after the ground has once been seeded, and the hay is also much more nutritious than the twigs, which are very largely only woody fibre.—Exchange.

#### What to Do with Fat Hens.

When a hen becomes very fat she not only is a poor layer, but will become broody, have leg weakness, and be unfit for anything but the pot. Such hens should be fed only once a day, at night, the meal to consist of a pound of lean meat to twenty hens, with a handful of grain scattered for them to hump up. They will then be hungry during the day, will search and work for food, while the indigestion of a few grains thrown out at night will cause them to keep at work until late. Meat contains little fat-producing elements, if lean, and will greatly promote laying as soon as the surplus fat is removed, which can only be done by compelling the hens to exercise.

#### How to Improve a Lawn.

Lawns can be kept green and thickset without the use of stable manure. City and village people who have a few square rods of grass, usually imagine it necessary to keep the plot covered for weeks with baled scented and silo-looking manure, when the fact is that one-half the money's worth of nitrate of soda and powdered phosphate of lime will answer better and create no nuisance. They furnish to the soil what is most needed, an alkali, phosphoric acid and nitrogen. Both of them are indorsed and show their effects immediately on application.—New York Tribune.

#### Horse Notes.

If you raise the right kind of horses the buyer will buy you up. See that the shoe fits the shoe to the foot, and not the foot to the shoe.

The cause of a vicious disposition in a horse is often rough treatment in grooming.

Too much feed is as bad as too little, especially when the horses have but little to do.

Never allow anyone to tickle or tease your horse in the stable. The animal only feels the torment, and does not understand the joke.

The farmer who has the care of young colts should make up his mind not to let them lose a pound of flesh at weaning time. The colt should pass his first winter in the best of condition, and without a hitch in his growth.—Western Rural.

#### Poultry Points.

Filthy houses—lice. Wet weather—piping. Musty food—canker. Overfeeding—apoplexy. Impure water—cholera.

#### High Roosts—bumble foot.

Damp quarters—diarrhoea. Close confinement—debility. High feeding—leg weakness. Drafts in the henry—roung. Want of exercise—black rot. Pulletes are not good breeders. Unwholesome diet—indigestion. Exposure to cold—rheumatism.

#### First-Rate Reason.

According to the papers badgering lawyers are always having the tables turned on them by quick-witted witnesses, and it is to be hoped that the papers do not exaggerate. One of the last stories of the kind is from *Tid-Bits*:

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Sergeant.—Why did you hide Sullivan in your house on that Sunday night?

Witness.—I did not see Sullivan at all on that night.

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#### The French Queens.

Of sixty-seven queens of France only thirteen have died without leaving their histories a record of misery. Eleven were divorced, two executed, nine died young, seven were soon widowed, three cruelly treated, three exiled; the poisoned and broken-hearted make up the rest.

## COATS OF LATE CUT.

### STYLISH WINTER WRAPS OF VARIOUS DESIGNS.

**Fur Garments Are Both Plentiful and Beautiful This Season—Favorite Cloth Goods Are Vicuna, Persian Cloth, Beaver, Cheviot and Kersey.**

#### Wraps for Women.

New York correspondence.—**ROBABLE** fur garments for women were never more plentiful than they are now, and they certainly were never more beautiful; but they are not to be had at prices that suggest their growing on backyard bushes, as those who cannot afford them turn to less expensive protection against cold. Coats of one or another kind of cloth are a popular resort, and the favored goods are Vicuna, Persian cloth, beaver, cheviot and kersey. Boucle cloth does not wear well, and is not warm as it looks, yet it is a good deal used. Velvet still holds its own, but nothing looks less shipshape than a velvet coat when worn on any but dress occasion, and as this means that another coat must accompany the velvet one, the latter is withdrawn from the economical list. Among other coats that are more in line with extravagance than economy are a few fine ones of brocade silk in very heavy quality and these are belted and in front have box bags that look careless, but that is the result of careful planning. The belt is of silk and fastens under a handsome buckle, the waist size being large. Sleeves are big, with several rows of corded tucks, a fancy that appears late and that has an authoritative look, that is convincing.

Passing such coats we come to coats bodices that are not intended to be hit. They will then be hung up during the day, will search and work for food, while the indigestion of a few grains thrown out at night will cause them to keep at work until late. Meat contains little fat-producing elements, if lean, and will greatly promote laying as soon as the surplus fat is removed, which can only be done by compelling the hens to exercise.

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## MCKINLEY'S BIG TASK.

### HOSTILE POLITICIANS SCHEMING TO HANDICAP HIM.

**The New President Will Not Resort to Discreditable Bargaining to Accomplish Reforms His Party Is Pledged to Put in Operation.**

#### Major McKinley's Task.

Those Democrats who are really hostile to any man and any plan that are not in accord with their ideas as to how the government should be conducted, are trying to make it appear that Major McKinley is making promises about certain important offices in order to secure the reforms he thinks are absolutely necessary. This is both unjust and untrue. In view of all the facts and conditions that determined the election of Major McKinley, certain features of his administration are apparent. The most important work will be to provide sufficient revenue for the needs of the government. The result of the defeat of Bryan assures the people that, while there may be legislation to correct certain defects in our financial system, there will be no serious disturbance of the currency. Tariff legislation must be the most important subject to consider. The Cuban war and the attitude of the United States toward other nations will, of course, receive proper attention.

With the experience the country has had for nearly four years, caused by the stupidity of the Democrats, the unresounding opposition of certain extremists on account of silver, and the war between Mr. Cleveland and a wing of his party, there is no disposition to force any legislation that will retard the return of prosperity. Major McKinley recognizes the various difficulties that are to be met, the necessity for harmony, and he will, so far as may be in his power, head the cry of the people for relief from the hard times that have prevailed so long. Sensible men of both parties recognize that the government must have money. But the statements of the Democrats that the inauguration of the new President means the imposition of great burdens on the people are made recklessly and in prejudice. There will be no opposition of the people in any tariff measure that may be passed.

There have already been made on the Democratic side of the Senate that legislation which, in the eyes of the Democratic obstructionists, will "turn the business of the country" shall not be passed. That is, in substance, a declaration that filibustering may be resorted to to defeat a tariff bill that may not be according to Democratic ideas.

The people are in no humor, after three years of hard times, to back up threats from the Senate. They may, with reason, ask who overthrew the business of the country during the present administration and brought it about that deficits have had to be met every month? The people are tired of seeing monthly reports of these deficits. They have had enough of bond issues to secure money to pay the government's running expenses. They want a sensible, equitable tariff bill that will provide enough money for the government's needs. This can be passed, and will be passed, and after it has been in operation the people will see that no opposition has been practiced.

The new President has expressed himself in accord with this policy. He will not resort to discreditable bargaining to accomplish reforms that his party is pledged to put into operation. It will not be necessary to do so, because he has the support of the people and the people are masters in the United States.—Baltimore American.

# The Avalanche.

G. PALMER, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 1897.

Entered in the Post Office, at Gray  
in Mich., as second-class matter.

## POLITICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

An anxious Bryan organ asks: "when will the good McKinley times and the promised prosperity come?" Not until the Democrats March 4th.

The statistics show that "the poor drought ridden State of Kansas" has during the last twenty-five years produced \$776,000,000 worth of corn, to say nothing of other crops.

It might not be impertinent to ask those who are pronouncing the McKinley administration a failure on the strength of recent bank collapses, to state just how the McKinley administration is at present. — Kansas City Journal.

It is true, as McKinley says, that "the Republican party is committed to international bimetallism," and it can be depended upon to render practical and effective service in that respect. —Globe Democrat.

The capital building of New York is over age. It was begun twenty-five years ago, and has cost \$20,000,000, and the architect wants another million to put a few extra touches on its gables.

Major McKinley is to wear at his inauguration a suit made of American wool, woven and made by American hands. This is appropriate, because he is all wool and a yard wide himself. —Philadelphia Press.

The occasional failure of a badly managed bank does not change the fact that every form of honestly conducted business is gradually improving. —Globe Democrat.

So far as the Pacific railroad question is concerned, the safe course for Congress to pursue is to find out what Huntington and his fellow-grabbers want, and then do something else. —Globe Democrat.

The sudden death of Gen. Francis A. Walker, removes one of the leading political economists of the United States, and a veteran. He was intending to join Senator Wolcott in his trip to Europe in the interest of bimetallism.

When the Republican party pledged itself to do all it could for the promotion of international bimetallism, it meant what it said, and will not miss any opportunity in that respect.

If the Republican party has any remedy concealed about its person, it would do well to pull it out and hang away. —Atlanta Constitution.

The Republican party has not begun to rot yet. You just get out of the way of the "hang" March 4th. It is not a party that goes off half-cocked. —Ex.

New York must put up more money for the Grant monument, \$70,000 being asked for the expenses of dedication. The children of the men who contributed towards the erection of the monument will probably give the sum required.

The great Smith carpet mills near New York, employing 7000 workers, which have been idle for some months, have resumed operations. The carpet mills of Lowell have also resumed work. These are stories indicative of the future.

The last day of December, 1896, the Wilson-Gorman tariff showed a deficit of \$15,237,722, on the last day of December, 1896, it showed \$37,000,000, and some accounts not yet closed. And yet the President and Secretary say there is no need of a change in the law.

The past year will be long remembered on account of the great victory in favor of the gold standard, and the present one will be equally remarkable for the restoration of good times under Republican rule.

The mineral output of Colorado in 1896 was greater than in any previous year, which shows that the talk about the destruction of the mining industry by unfriendly legislation is not true as to that State, at any rate.

The number of Bryan organs that are berating the Republican party "because the promised prosperity has not come," are about as smart as the wolf in the fable that accosted "the lamb that stood below him in the stream, of muddying the water" which his wolfish was drinking. The Republicans will assume the responsibility when they get there, and not before. Things are still Democratic. —Inter-Ocean.

## HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

### A New Eight-volume Encyclopedia

#### At About Your Own Price.

Every one who has had occasion to consult the cumbersome old encyclopedias for some needed information, will be glad to know of the appearance of a new general reference work built along different lines, so that any child who can read may successfully consult it in common with them. That accomplished silver will have a standing which would count for something. Bryan's plan would do nothing but Mexicanize the silver dollar. —Inter-Ocean.

Such a work is The New Standard American Encyclopedia in eight large quartet volumes, and which embraces the substance of all the other encyclopedias, besides a very large amount of new up-to-date matter none of them contain. It introduces a vast number of new words, names, facts, ideas, inventions, methods and developments. It treats, in all, over 60,000 topics, which is from 0,000 to 10,000 more than any other work. The publishers of the "Standard American" have also lavishly embellished the new work. There are over 8,000 illustrations, which cover every conceivable subject, lending new interest to the descriptions, and forming a succession of pleasing surprises. It also contains over 300 colored maps, charts, and diagrams, and epitomizes a complete atlas of the world such as no other encyclopedia has undertaken to present. This feature will be found of the highest value in the education of the young, for the pictures and colored maps will have a distinct fascination for them, and thus prove an important incentive to reading and study.

The professional or business man, whose time is money; the teacher, who is called upon to at once answer all sorts of questions; the toiling student and inquiring scholar, at home or the desk, will find in the new work the most useful and practical library in the world for quick and ready reference on all subjects. One who owns it will possess the equivalent of a score of other reference books which would cost many times the price of this.

Another feature in which the new work stands absolutely alone, is in its very full appendices, which embrace over 100 subdivisions, including a Biographical Dictionary, a Dictionary of Technical Terms, a Gazetteer of the United States, Presidential Elections in the United States, Religious Summaries, State and Territorial Election Statistics, Statistics of the population of the world, and a veritable mine of information on thousands of subjects of universal interest and importance.

But it is in its treatment of recent subjects that the Standard American will be found of paramount value. All other encyclopedias are from five to ten years old, and are silent regarding hundreds of topics that every reference work should contain. Such, for instance, as "The X-Ray," "Argon," "Horseless Carriages," "The Atlanta Exposition," "Color Photography," etc., etc. It also gives biographies of hundreds of people who have lately become famous, such as Prof. Roentgen discoverer of the "X-Ray," Ian MacLaren, Dr. Nansen, the explorer, Rudyard Kipling, etc., etc. It is a republican paper, but men of all politics take it, because of its honesty and fairness in the discussion of all public questions. It is the favorite family paper, with something for every member of the household. Serial stories, poetry, wit and humor, the Household department (best in the world), Young Folks, Sunday School Lessons, Talmage's Sermons, the Farmstead, the Question Bureau, (which answers questions for subscribers), the news for the week in complete form, and other special features. Specimen copies gladly sent on application, and if you will send us a list of addresses we will mail a copy to each. Only \$1.00 a year. If you wish to raise a club, write for terms.

Address THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

It would therefore seem that no professional man, artisan, mechanic, teacher, pupil, or farmer, can well afford to be without this most useful, practical and latest of all encyclopedias, especially as its price has been so arranged as to make the work a great bargain, and render its possession possible to almost any one who earnestly desires to own it. Detailed particulars regarding the work and how to secure it at practically your own price, may be found in an advertisement on another page of this issue.

Mr. Wanamaker's idea that the tariff should be so adjusted that manufacturers may be able to keep employees going the full week at good wages, is one that will be generally endorsed by people who take a practical view of the matter.

Justly the Favorite.

Ninety-nine out of every hundred persons who give Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsi a fair trial, pronounced it unexcelled as a cure for constipation, indigestion and sick headache. Ask your neighbor. Trial size 16c, also in 50c and \$1.00 bottles. For sale at Fournier's Drug Store.

It is reported that Spain is becoming weary of the strife in Cuba, and is contemplating negotiations by which it may be ended with advantage to all parties concerned. It is better voluntarily, to let go of the wrong end of an argument than to be forced to let go.

That Tired Feeling, about which newspaper jokers write so much, is with most of us at times, an actual condition, and not to be laughed at in fact. It is the result of long neglect and misuse of the stomach and bowels. Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsi comes in and removes this feeling, and life again seems worth living. Try a 10 cent bottle (10 doses 10 cents) of L. Fournier.

WANTED—FAITHFUL MEN OR WOMEN to travel for responsible established houses in Michigan. Salary \$780 and expenses. Position permanent. Reference. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. The National Star Insurance Bldg., Chicago.

Speaker Gordon has well recognized the representatives of this section of the State. Representative Gustin is made chairman of the Committee on General taxation, and is also on the Committee on Private Corporations and the University.

Senator Prescott is chairman of the Committee on the Asylum for the Insane at Pontiac and Newberry, and Public Improvements, and is on the committees on Lumber Interest, and the School for the Blind. His position in the Senate is among the leaders.

Republicans are ready and will be prompt to redeem their pledge to secure bimetallism by enlisting interest of all commercial nations and acting in common with them. That accomplished silver will have a standing which would count for something. Bryan's plan would do nothing but Mexicanize the silver dollar. —Inter-Ocean.

The February number of the De- lineator is called the midwinter number, and its artistic colored plates in lithograph, half-tone and oleograph effects embody the latest ideas in Winter Dress Modes, Fabrics and Millinery. One of the most valuable articles which has ever appeared in this sterling magazine introduces a writer new to its pages, Nora Archibald Smith—a sister of Kate Douglas Wiggin—whose paper on The study of Children should be read by every one who accepts responsibility for their proper development. Lucia Robins details a novel idea in Entertainments, and there is a paper of relative interest on Church Fairs and Fancy Bazaars. Emma Haywood continues her series of papers on Ecclesiastical Embroidery, and also illustrates the use of Coronation Cord in Fancy Work. The departments of Floral Work, Book Reviews, Tea-Table Chat, Seasonable Cookery, Knitting, Tatting, Crocheting, etc., are of accustomed excellence. \$1.00 per year. Address Butterick Publishing Co., N. Y. City.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder. World's Fair Highest Award.

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Every intelligent family needs in addition to their local paper a good national weekly. The greatest and most widely known general family newspaper is the Toledo Weekly Blade. For thirty years, it has been a regular visitor in every part of the Union, and is well known at almost every one of the 70,000 postoffices in the country. It is edited with reference to a national circulation. It is a republican paper, but men of all politics take it, because of its honesty and fairness in the discussion of all public questions. It is the favorite family paper, with something for every member of the household.

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(which answers questions for subscribers), the news for the week in complete form, and other special features. Specimen copies gladly sent on application, and if you will send us a list of addresses we will mail a copy to each. Only \$1.00 a year. If you wish to raise a club, write for terms.

Address THE BLADE, Toledo, Ohio.

Bucklin's Arnica Salve. THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay, required. It amounts to 28 per cent of the total yield of the whole world for the same period of time.

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A Valuable Prescription. Editor Morrison of Worthington, Ind., "Sur" writes: "You have a valuable prescription in Electric Bitters and a general system tonic; it has no equal." Mrs. Annie Stehle, 2125 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, was all run down, could not eat or digest food, had a headache which never left her, and felt tired and weary but six bottles of Electric Bitters restored her health and renewed her strength. Price 50c and \$1.00. Get a bottle at Fournier's Drug store.

Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. This is the best medicine in the world for all forms of Coughs and Colds and for Consumption. Every bottle is guaranteed. It will cure and not disappoint. It has no equal for Whooping Cough, Asthma, Hay Fever, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, L. A. Grippe, Cold in the Head, and for Consumption. It is safe for all ages, pleasant to take, and above all a sure cure. It is always well to take Dr. King's New Life Pills in connection with Dr. King's New Discovery, as they regulate and tone the stomach and bowels. We guarantee perfect satisfaction or return money. Free trial bottles at L. Fournier's Drug Store.

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## Takes the LEAD!

It is just the same with Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots & Shoes, Hats, Caps and Ladies and Gent's Furnishing Goods, as with any other essential. Quality always leads. It is not the loudest barking dog that best protects his master. Neither is it the alleged Cut Price Merchant that best serves the people. If they lose 50 cents on an article, they are bound to make it up on something else; they are not in business to lose money. Some people know that if they cheat you on clothing they are just as liable to cheat you on something else.

We just incidentally mention the above as food for serious thought, and ask, if in your opinion it is not best to trade with a

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We sell the best goods at the lowest living prices, and were never known to "Rob Peter to pay Paul."

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GRAYLING, MICHIGAN.

### Our Six Year Old Daughter.

Our little six year old daughter had a very sore throat, badly ulcerated, and coughed almost incessantly. Gave the White Wine of Tar Syrup according to directions, and she began to improve immediately, and soon got well. Mrs. Groves and I have recommended it to others and we consider it the very best medicine in use.

Rev. D. H. GROVES,  
Pastor M. E. Church,  
Clarksville, Mo.

The second vice president of the Illinois National Bank, whose stock-jobbing operations wrecked that institution, was a free silverite during the recent campaign. No wonder he felt the need of cheap dollars to make good the banks losses.

If the country had that \$178,000,000 which the American wool industry has lost through the operation of the Wilson-Gorman law, it would come handy about now. That is only part of the price paid for "tariff reform," however.

Orr and Tempé, of Tecumseh, Mich., write us on Jan. 13th, 1895, that their order of Nov. 13th, 1895, consisting of eight dozen

in package and a quantity in bulk of our Syrup-Pepsi; is all sold. We find it one of the best sellers and gives the best satisfaction of any remedy ever sold over a counter. It is in 10c, 50c, and \$1.00 sizes. For sale at Fournier's Drug Store.

Really Great Family Papers in the Country.

IT IS THE ONLY ONE. Published at the National Capital.

IT IS THE ONLY ONE. Devoted to the history of the war.

IT IS THE ONLY ONE. Devoted to the interests of ex-soldiers and sailors and Sons of Veterans.

IT IS THE ONLY ONE. That makes a bold and persistent fight for highest American rights.

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Printed on fine white paper, edited with skill and ability, and filled with the most interesting matter.

ONLY \$1 A YEAR. TWO CENTS A WEEK.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE,

1729 New York Ave., Washington, D. C.

### Hon. W. J. Bryan's Book

All who are interested in furthering the cause of Hon. W. J. Bryan's new book should correspond immediately with the author. The book will contain: AN ACCOUNT OF HIS CAMPAIGN TOUR, THE RESULTS OF HIS POLITICAL STATION, HIS MOST IMMEDIATE SPEECHES, THE RESULTS OF THE CAMPAIGN OF 1896, and other important documents. Address H. J. BRYAN COMPANY, Publishers 341-351 Dearborn St., Chicago.

### • AGENTS WANTED •

Mr. Bryan has announced his intention of devoting his time to furthering the cause of bimetallism. There are already indications of an enormous demand for his services.

Agents taken through Munn & Co. receive special notices in the paper.

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# The Avalanche.

J. C. HANSON, LOCAL EDITOR  
THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 1897.

## LOCAL ITEMS.

Ask for prosperity, at Claggett's. Wait for the Trio, Feb. 4th. Sweet Mixed Pickles at Claggett's. The Detroit Ladies Trio, at M. E. Church, Feb. 4th. Men's Plush Caps, 39 cents to close them out, at Claggett's.

A. Engel and son, of Blaine township, were in town, Tuesday.

Regular services will be held at the Presbyterian Church, next Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Cobb, of Maple Forest, were in town, Tuesday.

Pure Buckwheat Flour, at Claggett's.

H. T. Shafer, of Center Plains, was in town, Tuesday.

Buy a suit of Staleys Underwear at the store of S. H. & Co.

Mark S. Dilley of Frederic, was in town, last Saturday.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder Most Perfect Made.

Bates & Co. are offering the choicest Teas and the best Coffees, in town.

J. E. Annis, of Beaver Creek township, was in town, last Saturday.

Have you used Upper Crust Flour? If not, why not? Said by S. S. Claggett.

Crawford Tent No. 192, K. O. T. M., initiated 29 new members, during the past year.

Advertised Letters—C. B. Allen, All Demarest, Chas. Howland, Geo. Rich, John Sorenson.

C. A. Ingerson came home on Sunday morning, for a short visit with his family.

The best place in Grayling to buy Hay, Grain and Feed, is at Bates & Co's. Prices guaranteed.

Mrs. R. Hanson made her daughter, Mrs. H. Bauman, of Lewiston, a visit last week.

Any contributions for Rev. Mawhorter, if left at Claggett's store, will be delivered at his home.

T. W. Hanson was at Lewiston, last week, visiting with his sister, Mrs. H. Bauman.

D. Trotter was called to Chatham, Ontario, last week, to attend his father's funeral.

Quail were unknown in Oscawaw county, a few years ago; now they are quite plentiful.

Mrs. John Murphy and children returned to her husband's camp, near Frederic, last Thursday.

Miss Vena Jones, of Grayling, was in town on Tuesday, making arrangements to organize a music class—Lewiston Journal.

Fresh Bulk Oysters, Oranges, and Lemons, also a full line of Tabers. Pencils, Box papers, &c., at J. W. Sorenson's.

The K. O. T. M. and the L. O. T. M. will have a joint installation of their officers, at their hall on Saturday evening.

Mrs. Col. Dickinson, of Bagley, was the only visitor from outside of town at the installation services last Saturday evening.

You should try a barrel of Gold Medal Flour. It is the best and is for sale by S. H. & Co.

LeRoy Bros., of Standish, have sold the Decker to J. J. Decker & Sons. Mr. Decker is an old time newspaper man.

Miss Vena Jones, and Mr. John Blackmore went to Roscommon last Thursday, returning Saturday evening.

Regular meeting of Grayling Chapter, No. 83, O. E. S., will be held next Monday evening, the 18th, at the usual hour.

John Staley made his appearance on the street for the first time since he was taken sick, last Thursday. He is still improving.

Regular communication of Grayling Lodge, No. 356, F. & A. M., on this Thursday evening, the 14th, at the usual hour.

J. M. Francis of Grove township, was in town last Friday. He moved back on his farm about two weeks ago.

Mrs. Dr. Woodworth and children returned to Grayling, on Monday, after several days visiting with Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Kneeland—Lewiston Journal.

We do not give tickets with your purchase, but sell Goods at hard times prices. Give us your orders. S. H. & Co.

If you are looking for bargains be sure and see the bargain-table at the store of S. S. Claggett. It is filled with shoes, reduced from \$3.00, \$2.50, and \$2.00 to \$1.50.

The thermometer registered 10 degrees below zero, yesterday morning.

J. Tolman, of Frederic, was in town, Tuesday, and subscribed for the Avalanche.

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder World's Fair Highest Medal and Diploma.

S. B. Smith, of Blaine township, was in town last Thursday.

H. T. Shafer, of Center Plains, was in town, Tuesday.

Henry Kunk, of South Branch, was in town, Friday.

John J. Higgins, of Frederic, was in town, last Friday.

Don't buy your Flour, Sugar or Groceries until you get our prices. We can save you money. Salling, Hanson & Co.

R. Hanson, N. P. Olson, Geo. L. Alexander, and J. K. Hanson, of Grayling, E. N. Salling, of Manistee, and L. Jensen, of Bagley, are attending the stockholders meeting of the M. & H. Lumber Co., to day—Lewiston Journal.

A Donation Party will be held at the residence of Rev. W. H. Mawhorter, Friday evening the 22d. If you cannot attend, please donate something in assistance of the cause in which he is engaged.

Comrade B. S. Gifford, of Roscommon, died at Detroit, where he had been taken for treatment, Tuesday of last week, and was buried at Leslie, his old home. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn his departure.

Dr. F. F. Thatcher and Thorwald W. Hanson took to Cripple Creek, Colorado, last Monday. Mr. Hanson will visit Ft. Robinson, Nebraska, and the States of Montana, Washington, Oregon and California previous to returning.

Leave your order at the store of S. H. & Co., for one dollar's worth of Sugar and see how many pounds you will receive. We beat them all on prices.

John Becker, a woodsman, who has worked for a number of years in this part of the country, was run over by the passenger train, in front of the depot, last Monday morning, and instantly killed. No one knows how it was done.

Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Merrill closed up their business here and left on the early train, Sunday morning, for Toledo, Ohio, where they will locate. The News regrets their departure, but wishes them well in the city of their adoption—Ros. News.

P. M. Hoyt, and E. Cobb, of Maple Forest, were in town Saturday. Mr. Cobb is supplying several camps with beef, this winter, but reports beef cattle growing scarce in this country. He has brought in some from Kalkaska.

We received word, yesterday, from Mrs. Andrew Scott, of Lewiston, announcing the death of Victor Evans, who was killed by a falling tree in Bliss and Van Auken's Camp, near that place, on Tuesday of this week. Victor was a son of N. H. Evans, a former resident of South Branch township—Ros. News.

Buy a barrel of Gold Medal Flour. The best Sprung Wheat Flour made. The quality and price will surprise you. For sale by S. H. & Co.

One of the pleasant episodes of life was met at the residence of Wm. Woodburn, Esq., Monday evening, when half a hundred of his friends dropped in to help celebrate the 60th anniversary of his birth. Both Mr. Woodburn and his wife were taken by surprise, and each were presented with an elegant chair, by their children and friends, who hope they may enjoy 60 years more. Charades and social games, mirth and music, and light refreshments hastened the time away, and all said, "we are glad we come."

Announcement.

Miss Grace Inwood will be in Grayling on Friday and Saturday of each week as usual, notwithstanding contrary reports. Any desire of receiving piano forte instructions, or entering musical theory or sight-playing classes, may confer with her at the home of Mrs. W. M. Woodworth.

J. M. Francis of Grove township, was in town last Friday. He moved back on his farm about two weeks ago.

Mrs. Dr. Woodworth and children returned to Grayling, on Monday, after several days visiting with Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Kneeland—Lewiston Journal.

We do not give tickets with your purchase, but sell Goods at hard times prices. Give us your orders.

S. H. & Co.

Awarded

Highest Honors—World's Fair.

DR.

PRICE'S

CREAM

BAKING

POWDER

MOST PERFECT MADE.

A pure Grape Cream of Tartar Powder, Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant.

40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

W. Batterson, of Frederic, was in town, yesterday.

L. Fournier was on a business trip to Detroit, the first of the week.

J. K. Wright attended Circuit Court in Roscommon, Monday and Tuesday.

BORN—On Dec. 4th, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Batterson, a daughter, weight five pounds.

DIED—Monday night, the 11th, at her home, at Higgins Lake, Mrs. Geo. Hails, in her 67th year.

Get your picture taken at Nelson & Little's gallery. Platinum and Glass work, and a pleasant expression.

Mr. and Mrs. Rev. R. L. Cope were not only surprised but very much pleased by the visit of so many of their Grayling friends at the parsonage, New Years evening. They appreciated the tokens of friendship, left by the guests, but more especially the good will in the hearts of the visitors, which prompted the visit. They desire to thank all the visitors, and especially Mrs. M. E. Hanson, who planned the conspiracy.

Rev. C. W. Potter arrived here from Auburn, N. Y., last Saturday and was held in the Presbyterian Church, morning and evening.

It is expected that Mr. Potter will remain here, becoming the regular pastor of that church. The only question, we believe, being the one of salary, and we apprehend there will be no difficulty in that line, as proven by the generous support given to the churches, in the past by our citizens. Mr. Potter is welcome.

MARRIED—By Rev. R. L. Cope, at the residence of the bride's parents, on Thursday evening, Dec. 31st, 1896, Mr. Woodis Truman and Miss Georgie M. Michelson, both of Grayling. After the ceremony a reception and wedding supper was given the happy couple and the wedding guests at Grandma Russel's. Mr. and Mrs. Truman took the 2-a-m train New Years morning (under a liberal shower of rice) for Muskegon and other points, where they will enjoy the light of their honey moon.

Last Saturday evening was held the installation of the officers of the W. R. C. and G. A. R., at their hall, which was filled with members and their friends. The ladies had the first innings, and their pleasing ceremony, conducted by Past-President Mrs. Staley, was listened to with close and interested attention, and closed with a presentation from the members of the Corps, through Mrs. Staley, to the past and present President. Mrs. M. E. Hanson, of a beautiful silver and cut glass fruit dish. The gift was a genuine surprise, and it was some time ere Mrs. Hanson caught her breath for a reply, but then it was her turn to "catch another," by presenting the past and present conductor, Mrs. Chalker, with a beautiful Corp Pin. After the rendering of two fine selections of music, by Mr. Blackmore, the officers were installed, and in a moment the hall was transformed, prepared for banquet, and every one of our citizens know what that means, for the ladies of Grayling are not only the "brightest, best and most beautiful" in the State, but excel all others in preparing and service of a light banquet. The work of genuine charity performed by these ladies is appreciated by our people, and they will not call for aid in vain.

Another Good Man Gone Wrong.

He failed to use Foley's Honey Cure for his kidney complaint. For sale at L. Fournier's Drug Store.

A Western exchange says that a practical revivalist requested all in the congregation who paid their debts to rise. The rising was general. After they had taken their seats, a call was made for those who didn't pay their debts, and one solitary individual arose, who explained that he was an editor, and could not because the rest of the congregation were owing him their subscription.

Foley's Honey and Tar

Cough Syrup, wherever introduced, is considered the most pleasant and effective remedy for all throat and lung complaints. It is the only prominent cough medicine that contains no opiates and that can safely be given to children. For sale at L. Fournier's Drug Store.

Lee Taylor left Friday night for Lansing, where he expects to spend the rest of the school year, with an aunt. He will attend the City High School. Lee will be greatly missed from the High School-circle here, and by the C. H. S. Literary Society, of which he was a valued member.—Cheboygan Tribune.

S. F. Fritz, of 677 Sedgwick street, Chicago, says: "I had a severe enough

which settled on my lungs. I tried a number of advertised remedies and also placed myself under treatment of several physicians, with no benefit. I was recommended to try Foley's Honey and Tar. With little expectation of getting relief, I purchased a bottle. I had taken but few doses when I felt greatly improved; I was enabled to sleep, spitting of blood ceased, and by the time I had taken the second bottle I was entirely well. It saved my life." For sale at L. Fournier's Drug Store.

40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

W. B. FLYNN, Dentist  
WEST BRANCH, MICH.

WILL make regular trips to Grayling the 10th of each month, remaining for three days. Office with Dr. Insley.

BORN—On Dec. 4th, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Batterson, a daughter, weight five pounds.

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40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL  
(NIAGARA FALLS ROUTE)

Trains leave Grayling as follows:

GOING NORTH.

4:35 P. M. Mackinaw Express, daily except Sunday; arrives at Mackinaw 6:00 P. M.

3:35 A. M. Marquette Express, daily, arrives at Mackinaw 7:15 A. M.

2:30 P. M. Way Freight, arrives Mackinaw 7:30 P. M.

12:30 P. M. Mackinaw Accommodation.

## ABOUT MOONSHINERS.

THEIR BUSINESS HAS INCREASED IN TWELVE YEARS.

No Romance About Illicit Distilling  
In the Southern States—Hard Lines for Informers—Various Grades of Moonshine Whisky.

Corn Whisky Made for Export.  
"Moonshining" has steadily increased during the last twelve years according to the commissioner of internal revenue. Last year 1,905 illicit distilleries were seized by the government, the largest number discovered in any one



GROUP OF MOONSHINERS.

year, and more than twice as many as were found in 1883 of in any year previous. In its efforts to enforce revenue laws in the last twelve years the government has had ten officers killed and fifteen wounded. None was killed last year, but three were wounded, which record equals that of any other year of the twelve. The largest number of "moonshining" distilleries—507—was found in Georgia. One congressional district, the Ninth, developed 430. North Carolina was second in the "moonshine" industry, with 433 "blind stills." Secretary Carlisle's State, Kentucky, furnished eighty cases of illicit distilleries.

As a rule, the great majority of these illicit stills are of the most primitive character, and—generally of small capacity. Nearly every farm among the mountains has a still secreted somewhere, and should the proprietor be called upon to surrender his booze and

RODE ON A DEER'S ANTLERS.

A Hunter's Exciting and Perilous Adventure in California.

William M. Stover, a mine owner in Tuolumne County, California, had an experience, recently, that he would not wish to repeat for all the wealth in the mountains of the State. While out shooting near the Stanislaus River he shot at a deer that was standing on the crest of a hill. The bullet went straight, and the deer plunged forward and fell. Mr. Stover laid his rifle down and hastened to his fallen game for the purpose of cutting its throat. Just as he reached the deer and leaned over to apply the knife, the animal leaped off its feet and gazed at Mr. Stover.

Instantly the man seized the beast by the horns. This action terrified the buck. He made a plunge, and down the steep sides of Devil's canyon he went, carrying the man with him on his antlers. The deer was madly frightened, and Mr. Stover was more scared than the deer. He could not turn loose, and away went man and animal, over rocks, bushes and briers. When near the bottom of the canyon the deer fell against a tree, and before he could get up, Mr. Stover grabbed a large piece of quartz rock and killed the animal by beating it on the head.

If there is one thing a moonshiner hates worse than a snake it is an informer. Nothing is more detestable to the cian than a spy, and no mercy is

shown should one fall into their hands. This brotherhood of moonshiners is somewhat similar to the old ku-klux arrangement, for they will stand by each other to the last. The moonshiners really have no grievance against the revenue officials, and will rarely shoot or even injure them, except in self-defense, but an informer is their common enemy, and woe to one of this class should he ever be found out or even suspected. There are individuals in every district looking for this sort of job; and it is dangerous for a stranger to be seen wandering about the mountains alone, let his mission be ever so innocent. A pair of suspicious eyes are following every movement, perhaps a woman's or a child's eye, and should anything appear to these watchers to be of a questionable nature, a rough clap on the back and a gruff "What's yer doing in these parts?" may be very difficult to explain satisfactorily.

Not long ago, near Waco, Ga., a young man of excellent character was ambushed by three desperate moonshiners, who spotted him as an informer, and it might have gone hard with him had it not been for his rare pluck and rare work with his muscle. Young Robertson is a rustic athlete, who was written down in the catalogue of the moonshiners as a spy, and a plot was laid to make away with him on the quiet. The opportunity came one midnight, when Robertson was riding home from a visit to a neighbor. In a very dark part of the woods the "shiners" waited for their victim, and pretty soon he was seen coming up the road, mounted on a mule.

As he arrived opposite the place of ambush, quick as a flash three men jumped before his steed, and ordered him to halt. The rider, good-natured, said he had no objection, and quietly dismounted. One of the men whipped out his pistol and demanded to know why he reported them to the revenue officers. "Shoot the d—d spy," said one. "No; thrash the life out of him," said another. The third was in favor of flogging, but Robertson decided the question for himself by shooting out his fist with the force of a battering ram, and the moonshiner with the pistol executed some of the finest gymnastic evolutions ever seen outside of a professional circus. The other two threw themselves upon the young man, and one of them drew a gun. Robertson grabbed the pistol, when it was accidentally discharged, and the third moonshiner, who thought the "informant" was shooting at him, cut loose and left his comrade to his fate. Robertson was more than a match for the remaining one, and by a series of grapples threw his antagonist and made him a prisoner. The others had taken to their heels and with the man's own pistol Robertson marched the fellow to town and turned him over to the authorities.

The name "moonshiner" comes from the fact that the distillations are generally carried out at night, and often by the light of the moon. The spirits are sometimes called "blockade," for the reason that those who sell it have to run the blockade in order to get the stuff to a purchaser. No one would suspect the innocent-looking load of cotton rolling along the road or containing moonshine hidden somewhere down among those falky bales; but a load of potatos may be equally as guilty, and wagons full of corn, cotton seed, hay, or any other kind of produce or grain, all lend a hand to aid the moonshiner in getting his goods to market.

The finest article is manufactured from pure corn, and it is intended principally for smuggling; but only the larger stills engage in the export business. The smaller affairs are run in a different way. The very small ones are really "for family use only," the product being intended wholly for home consumption. Except the larger ones, most of the stills are run on the co-operative plan. That is: You bring so much grain to my mill and I will return you so much grist.

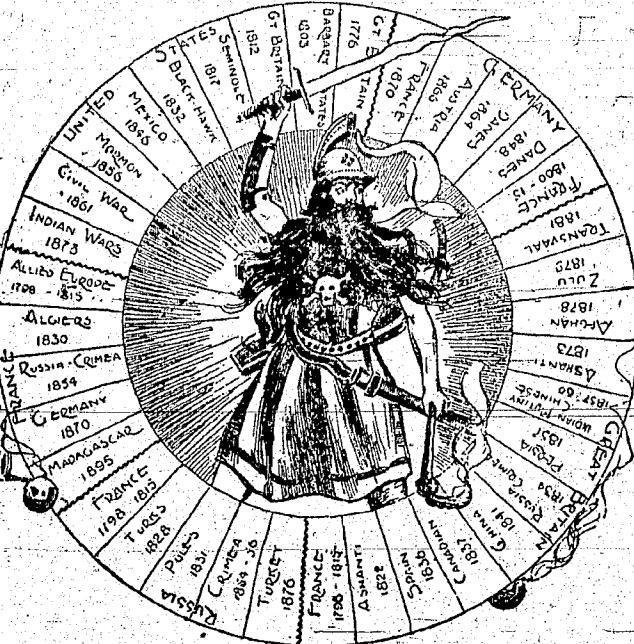
MERRY-GO-ROUND WITH SAILS.

Scheme of a Genius of the Mediterranean to Get Fun Without Work.

A graceful contrivance has been perfected in a city on the Mediterranean coast—a sailing merry-go-round. The basic principle is a very simple one—a strong beam pivoted centrally and fitted at each end with miniature sloop rigging; i. e., mainsail and jib. Seats to carry one or more riders are slung under each arm. Ingenuity or indolence will suggest a variety of improvements. The device may be fitted with automatic brakes, to revolve gently, for baby's or grandma's accommodation, or it may be so loaded with sails that it will revolve with amazing rapidity. That this Elysian charm may operate most satisfactorily, friction at the pivoted point must be reduced to a minimum, and to insure this the two arms and the weight carried by each should be balanced to a nicety. This can be accomplished in two ways—either by providing a special shifting weight or by making the seats for the riders invisible. It is, of course, understood that the boats are not made fast, but so that they may shift, or be shifted, as in racing.

One of the firemen ran up his ladder, but, brave as he was, the flames drove him back. Some groaned, others wept

## IS A BIG WAR JUST ABOUT DUE IN THIS COUNTRY?



GENERAL NELSON A. MILES, in a recent report to the War Department, adduced reasons in support of his contention that the army of the United States should at once be increased, the public in the category of comets and other things that return at regular intervals. General Miles seems to think that we are bound to have a war just so often, and that a fully developed war is due here about this time, or in the immediate future. And the New York Journal discovers the strange fact that not only the history of the United States, but of almost every other country, proves that General Miles is right. No nation ever enjoyed continuous and uninterrupted peace. As you turn back the pages of history you find a war occurring just about so many times during every century, in every country on the globe. There is no exception to this rule. No country has ever passed through a century of existence without a war. As a matter of fact, the wars average about three for each century in every country, and sometimes, as you examine history, you will find an extra war or two in for good measure. France has been particularly lucky in this respect, having had enough wars on hand during the time of Napoleon to keep her general average above that of every other country, even had continuous peace succeeded. Waterloo. The United States, too, makes a good showing in the war category. For the number of years this country has been in existence we have done almost enough fighting to have acquired the war-habit, which sometimes afflicts nations just as the liquor habit afflicts men. The statistics of wars show that they are always succeeded by peace. These periods of peace, as history shows, averaging a little more than a quarter of a century in duration, and it is not well to remember that over thirty-one years have passed since the last great war in this country closed.

Within the past hundred years this nation on the whole, has been peculiarly fortunate in the matter of warfare with foreign powers, the international contests out-numbering the others, and these, with the exception of the civil war of 1861, being comparatively insignificant. Thirty-six years elapsed between the revolution and 1812 war, and thirty-four years between the latter and the war with Mexico. The war against the Barbary States in 1803 was a small affair, and can hardly be dignified by classing it among international wars. Fifty years have elapsed since the Mexican war, and another thirty-four since the close of the civil war. The Mormon struggle of 1858 was brief, and the various Indian wars, while ferocious, were of short duration. Within the past century England has had more wars than any other nation, the bulk of them being due to the British thirst for conquest and territorial aggrandizement. Russia has had peace since the Turco-Russian war of 1878. France and Germany since the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, Austria since the Italian war in 1866, the United States since 1865, and England since the Afghan and Zulu wars of 1878-79, excepting the present Soudan campaign and her other Egyptian quarrels. Thus, with the variation of a few years, all of these nations have had peace for about a generation. During the last half century peace societies in this country and abroad have been formed with the object of forever preventing war.

MERRY-GO-ROUND WITH SAILS.

Scheme of a Genius of the Mediterranean to Get Fun Without Work.

A graceful contrivance has been perfected in a city on the Mediterranean coast—a sailing merry-go-round. The basic principle is a very simple one—a strong beam pivoted centrally and fitted at each end with miniature sloop rigging; i. e., mainsail and jib. Seats to carry one or more riders are slung under each arm. Ingenuity or indolence will suggest a variety of improvements. The device may be fitted with automatic brakes, to revolve gently, for baby's or grandma's accommodation, or it may be so loaded with sails that it will revolve with amazing rapidity. That this Elysian charm may operate most satisfactorily, friction at the pivoted point must be reduced to a minimum, and to insure this the two arms and the weight carried by each should be balanced to a nicety. This can be accomplished in two ways—either by providing a special shifting weight or by making the seats for the riders invisible. It is, of course, understood that the boats are not made fast, but so that they may shift, or be shifted, as in racing.

One of the firemen ran up his ladder, but, brave as he was, the flames drove him back. Some groaned, others wept

A GIFT WITHIN THE REACH OF ALL.

The fire started early Sunday morning, when few people were on the streets. It gained good headway before it was even discovered. When the engines arrived, it was too late to save the property, and seemed equally so to rescue life.

A crowd waited, breathlessly, while the firemen dashed in again and again, seeking the terrified and helpless people who found no way of escape. At length, just as the spectators assured each other that all was safe, a woman appeared at an upper window. Her was the direst peril yet faced.

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EX-PUGILIST, and that I'll see him after I have finished my luncheon."

I thought that would knock him silly, but it didn't; for he replied back, much louder than I had spoken:

"You're a blank lar. I am Paddy Ryan, the ex-pugilist, and I'll see you before you finish your grub."

But he didn't; for I escaped from that restaurant before he had a chance to get up from his table.—San Francisco WIRE.

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## FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

### ITEMS OF TIMELY INTEREST TO THE FARMERS.

**Drugs for Glossy Coats...How to Keep Away Rodents...Hard-Milking Cows...Feeding Millet.**

#### MANAGEMENT OF FLOCK.

"Those who set out to feed sheep will do well to observe a few essentials," says a writer in *Israël Life*. "First among these is a dry yard. It need not be large but it must be dry and well bedded. Keep it fresh and clean. Next insist on absolute quiet of the sheep. If necessary keep everybody and everything out of the yard except the man who feeds them. Let nothing disturb or frighten them. Wild, restless sheep never fatten rapidly. Another essential is constant access to clean, wholesome water. Feed at regular intervals and a uniform ration. Make all changes very gradually. Sheep cannot be put onto full feed in a short time as cattle. Feeding too heavily at the start is a very common mistake in all kinds of feeding. It is of the utmost importance to start right. An animal that is overfed at the start rarely does as well afterward. Another essential, and one of the first things demanded, is a feed trough that sheep will not get their feet into. Clean this, trough before every feed. It is useless to throw a lot of feed into a dirty trough for sheep, leaving a part of it from day to day, and wonder why they do not gain. Every day allowance of hay, grain and water should be fresh and clean. Keep salt constantly before them. If the flock of worms, ticks and lice. Do not grind any grain except for very old sheep. Shelled corn and good oats, in equal parts, with 10 to 15 per cent of bran and oil meal make a grain ration that can be hardly surpassed. Feed the best clover hay obtainable, the second crop preferred."

"These may all seem like trivial things in the management of a feeding flock, and they are, but it is attention to just this kind of little things that makes the successful feeder. It was the observance of all these details, and many others, that enabled the feeder at the Iowa Experiment Station to make an average daily gain of one-half pound per head from 737 pounds on the lambs at that station."

#### WHO SHOULD GROW BERRIES?

First of all, farmers everywhere, for family use. The farmer must grow berries or do without. No one can grow them so cheaply as he.

They may be produced ready for picking at two cents per quart.

The farmer saves cost of picking, packing, boxing, crating, freight, express, and profits of grower.

He gets them at first cost, fresh from the vines, and to the extent of his own family has the best market in the world—a home market.

He can select the best land and location on his own farm and is sure of a profit with half a crop.

Farmers can never have ideal homes without the fruit garden. It teaches the lessons of intensified training, and results in better tilage, larger crops, better stock, and improved methods in every way.

Good gardens and poor farms never keep company long.

The growing of berries for family use is easily done. The growing of the berries largely, and selling them in good market, requires considerable skill and a special business tact.

Only those who have good location, good market, and a taste for the business should attempt it. Many small farmers so situated are making a success by commencing moderately and increasing acreage from season to season as experience warrants.

Berries should be grown by owners of all village homes, and acreage property in city and village may be profitably used for that purpose.

The market gardener selling his own product can often make an acre or two of berries very profitable.

The business or professional man almost broken with care may recover health and strength in the pleasant walks of horticulture. It is restful to both mind and body.

Many women dependent on their own efforts are securing substantial aid from their gardens; berries and flowers thrive best under the gentle touch of women.

Many a bright boy may receive his first incentive to business and earn his first money by growing berries or vegetables. Give him a patch of ground and encourage him in this work.

The amateur growing berries for pleasure also gets close to the heart of nature, and in common with every worker of the soil may receive her smile.—*American Farmer*.

#### ESTIMATING WEIGHT OF STOCK.

The following rules may be applied to estimate the weight of live animals. In measuring a beef steer take a string, say Montana Stockmen, put it around the animal, standing square, just behind the shoulder-blade. Measure on a foot rule the feet and inches the animal is in circumference. This is called the girth. Then with the string measure from the bones of the tail which plumbs the line with the hinder part of the buttock; direct the line along the back to the fore part of the shoulder-blade. Take the dimensions on the foot rule as before, which is the length.

Work the figures in the following manner: Girth of the bullock, six feet four inches; length, five feet three inches, which multiplied together make thirty-one square superficial feet, that multiplied by twenty-three—the number of pounds allowed to each superficial foot of cattle measuring less than seven and more than five feet in girth—makes 713 pounds. Where the animal measures less than nine and more than seven feet in girth, thirty-one pounds is the number to each superficial foot.

Again, suppose a pig or any small animal should measure two feet in girth and two feet along the back, which multiplied together make four square feet; that multiplied by eleven—the number of pounds allowed to each square foot of cattle measuring less than three feet in girth—makes forty-four pounds. Again, suppose a cow or sheep should measure four feet six inches in girth and three feet nine inches in length, multiplied together make sixteen and one-half square feet, that multiplied by sixteen—the number of pounds allowed to all cattle measuring less than five and more than three feet in girth—makes 264 pounds.

#### ROSE GROWING.

It has been truly said that any soil that will grow corn will grow roses. And just in proportion to the careful preparation and fertilization of the ground will be the crop, stalk and ear. So with roses; they always repay good treatment and they delight in a rich and deep soil.

The hybrid class does better in a heavy loam, containing clay, while the Teas, Noisettes, Bourbons and the like prefer a sandy loam, or a much lighter soil than the harder class. Special care in both cases should be given to a thorough drainage. Roses abhor wet feet.

In preparing my beds I remove the soil, lay it aside, and dig the subsoil out until the pit is fully two feet in depth. The bottom is then loosened the full depth of a picket-head, and this is filled in with good loam and soil, well-enriched with old and well-decomposed manure, all thoroughly worked together and tamped down. The beds may be made of any desired shape, but for roses that do not require production a bed four feet wide is very satisfactory. The plants can be placed two and a half feet apart each way by placing them thus. This gives one foot to the outside border, the plants get the full exposure to the sun, and the flowers can be gathered without stepping on the bed.—Dr. Robert Huley before the Philadelphia Horticultural Society.

#### FEEDING MILLET.

The unfavorable conditions for the hay crop which prevailed over a large part of the country in 1895 and 1896 directed increased attention to millet as a forage crop.

It proved highly successful, giving good yields where the work of preparation and sowing was properly done. Well-cured millet hay is relished by horses and cattle. But some caution should be used in feeding it to milch cows, especially if the heads contain much seed. In that condition it is stimulating to the lacteal glands, and therefore creates a predisposition to numerous or inflammation of the udder. If millet is fed freely and alone, great care must be exercised to keep the cows from exposure to bad weather, especially avoiding sudden transitions from a warm stable to outside cold. On the whole, it is better to feed the millet only once or at most twice a day in alternation with corn fodder, straw or meadow hay.

Many serious cases of acute mania have been traced to the source indicated above.—*New England Home- stead*.

#### HARD-MILKING COWS.

There is nothing more provocative of profanity than to milk a hard-milking cow, especially if she is a kicker, as the hard-milker is apt to be. Farmers who pray that they be not led into temptation, ought to give more care to the kind of cows they keep for their sons and hired men to milk. It is a pretty serious business putting temptations to swears in other people's way. There is another reason why the hard-milking cow is not likely to be profitable. To easy-going people, too good tempered to be profane, the temptation takes another form; that is, not to swear at the cow, but to stop milking her before all the milk is exhausted. Thus many a cow has dried up prematurely and never given her owner any profit, while if she had been an easy milker she had the capacity to become as good a cow as any in the dairy.—*American Cuthlary*.

#### HOW TO KEEP AWAY RODENTS.

To protect fruit trees from mice and rabbits, remove all rubbish from about the trees as well as from the orchard. Rabbits congregate in such places. Clean cultivation is the best remedy. Before ground freezes, make a mound of earth a foot high around the trunk of each tree. Young nursery stock may be wrapped with closely meshed wire screening. Blood or rancid grease is offensive to vermin, but is easily washed off by rains, so needs to be replaced several times during winter.—Horticulturist James Troop, Indiana Experiment Station.

#### DRUGS FOR GLOSSY COATS.

Some English horse owners are suffering loss through the practice of administering certain drugs to the animals with a view of improving their appearance, including "glossy coats." When horses have become accustomed to the drug they can rarely do without it or recover from its effects, and if not stopped they invariably die owing to the accumulative character of the poison. Fortunately this practice is little followed in this country, except possibly among carriage animals in some of the big cities.—*American Agriculturist*.

#### An Infallible Test of Death.

The reward offered by the French Academy of Sciences for a sure test of death was paid twenty years ago. The method of determining that life is extinct is simple. When the hand is held between the eyes and a candle or other light with the fingers stretched and touching each other the bright color of the circulating blood will shine through the tissues and the skin will appear partially transparent. After death this is not noticeable. Scientists declare that nothing but death will change the tissues so that the transparency will not be noticeable. Catalepsy and other forms of apparent death do not change the appearance of the hand when thus examined.

## DEATH FOR GOLD.

### WESTERN MINERS ARE RUSHING INTO CALIFORNIA'S DEATH VALLEY.

**An Arid Tract in the Mojave Desert Which is Whitened by the Bones of Prospectors...Reports of Big Finds.**

Once more gold has been discovered in Death Valley and the Mojave deserts. Once more the long, arid levels—breathless, treeless and lifeless—will gleam with the bones of prospectors and explorers. Once more wagons will stand in the hot, white-sands with shining, rustless tires, until they rack apart and rust to pieces for want of moisture to hold them together.

Take down your map and draw a line from latitude 35 to 37 and longitude 118 to 120 and you will have within the enclosure a block of desert comprising 20,000 square miles.

This vast enclosure, says the *New York Herald*, is dotted with the white bones of dead men and old yokes of dead oxen and the paraphernalia of ancient emigrant trains. No vehicle wheels above in the bald, blue sky; no wolf or coyote howls from the sandy ridges. It is a sepulchre reigns forever. The rush has already commenced; and the flat levels along the Mojave are marked with the deep wheel-tracks of daring prospectors. This is because it is winter and in winter the desert is comparatively kind. Let them find gold and let them hang to it as long as their strength lasts. The desert will dream in placid silence until summer comes, and then the prospectors will dig like rats in a trap, before they get over the high, stony ridges that surround Death Valley.

The area of the desert is traversed by numerous parallel valleys, running from northwest to southeast and bounded by great ranges of treeless hills. The centre valley of these is the one that bears the name of Death. It is the hottest on earth and varies in many ways with the bottomless pit. And no wonder. It is from 100 to 500 feet below the level of the sea.

At various times since its discovery individuals have penetrated the arid waste. A government expedition passed hurriedly through it, but could not spare time to make explorations for fear of losing their lives. Springs were found, but they were not sufficient to quench the thirst of a suffering mule. The average mid-night heat during summer is said to be close to 110 degrees, much of which is subterranean.

Death Valley is overhung on the east by the Funeral Mountains, which rise above it in great bald ridges. They are called the Funeral Mountains because they have witnessed one of the saddest tragedies that even the Death Valley has ever witnessed.

In the early fifties an emigrant train, steering south, away from the regular trail, sighted a range of mountains on the far side of a wide, blinding desert. "Two days will take us across the desert and in the mountains we will find water," they argued. So they filled their water barrels, and, with crackling whips, launched their white prairie horses over the white and motionless waves of the borax desert. Forty miles, fifty miles, a night's encampment; sixty, seventy-five miles, and the blue mountains that had hung like a pall against the sky were reached.

They paraded out the precious store of food and the more than precious store of water, giving the women and children two-thirds of everything in sight. Then they pitched camp at the foot of the mountains.

On the next day, with infinite trouble, they gradually rolled the great wagons to the top of the mountains, one behind the other in a long line. They wheeled into a stone plateau at the top. Then a great cry broke from them.

To the west lay the shining white level as dead a land as God ever made. There were nothing but grease wood and a few bare clumps of sagebrush in sight—notting but the silence of death and utter desolation.

And yet it was a sight that would have filled the heart of a painter with delight. To the northwest lay the ranges of the Argus and the Sierras, hundreds of miles away. To the south they could see the Pilot Butte, the Calicos, and the San Bernardino range, beyond which was safety. These mountains were blue and faintly streaked with snow. To the north were range upon range of mountains nameless and unknown.

At their feet, beyond the mesa, which they reached later, was a narrow valley, all streaked with soda, like the lava ribs of a skeleton, spotted with white buttes and blotched with age. It was death to go back. They could never have survived the journey. They could only plunge on, into the unknown.

And so they lowered the wagons by ropes down to the mesa, a table land below. They could go no further. A melancholy meeting was held. There were no fears; only sad questioning eyes and burning gazes across the wastes. They resolved to separate. Each man took his own. Whithersoever the husbands went there went the wives, faithful, mute and questionless, and the little children.

A great, gaunt emigrant named Brand took his children in his arms, and, followed by his wife and two others, struck off westward toward the Panamint range. The others separated, going according to their several ideas. The two men following Towne drove two oxen. On top of the mountain range these were killed and some of the meat was dried. From the top of these mountains, looking back, they could see black dots far out over the desert, crawling along sluggish and ant-like. There were other dots that lay on the white sands quiet and still.

In the horrible march of the next day Brand's two children died in his arms. With his hands he scooped a grave for them in the hot sands, and, lifting his wife on his shoulder, walked on, hour by hour, until he began to race, and the woman had to guide him toward

his objective point, the western side of the Argus range.

One day there staggered into a little mining camp in Eastern California a tall, skeleton-like man, bearing a dead woman in his arms. He sat down by the side of a little stream where men were washing for gold with cradles. When they came to him he snarled like a wild beast and would not let them touch the woman. It was Brand.

Finally he was subdued by force, and, realizing his condition, the miners gave him food and drink, and, in a week he was well. The story he told was startling. A rescue party was made up, which hurried eastward. Along the trail which Brand had traversed and scattered on either side they found the dry and mummified remains of thirty men, women and children. As late as 1890 bones were still found far south of the camp on the mesa. Some of them were within 200 yards of a spring, which they had failed to reach.

#### MERKLE'S PETRIFIED LEG.

**He Gave His Little Toe as a Souvenir to Those Who Tell the Tale.**

An El Paso (Tex.) correspondent of the *Philadelphia Times* writes: A hunting party from this place, but recently returned from an expedition northeast of here, tell of the marvellous discovery in the mountain regions of what seems to be one of the greatest living wonders. The find is nothing more nor less than a man, living and apparently in good health, yet having one foot completely petrified. The tale is a pretty stiff one, and would not be credited were it not vouched for by gentlemen of well-known veracity and honor, who furthermore have and are ready to exhibit the little toe from the petrified foot, which was broken off shortly before their visit, and which the owner was kind enough to give them as a souvenir.

The man with the petrified foot is an ex-cowboy, Bill Merkle by name, who has lived in the mountains nearly twenty-five years. Up to twenty years ago Merkle lived the most active of outdoor lives, but about that time, in trying to get out of the way of a stampeding drove, he was thrown from his horse right in the track of the cattle, the herd sweeping on relentlessly over his prostrate body. When picked up by his companions a few moments later, not a bruise was discovered anywhere upon his body, but both bones of the left leg appeared to be broken just below the knee. No physician was called in. Merkle's friends merely using the simple means in their power to set, split and bandage the broken limb. According to Merkle's account, in an incredibly short time the bones seemed to be knitting together, but pretty soon became evident that the texture and color of the flesh below the fracture was undergoing a change. In the course of a month it was deemed advisable to remove the bandage, when it was discovered that while the fracture had indeed reunited the leg below had already begun to show unmistakable evidence of hardening. Since then, slowly, the process had continued till now the entire limb below the break is a complete petrification.

Strange to relate, Merkle declares there is no pain anywhere in the region of the old fracture, and while the weight of the petrified limb necessarily regards his progress, he can stand upon it, and even take a few steps, and his general health is excellent. Of course, there is no sensation in the petrified member; it may be struck, scratched, pricked with impunity, and lifted the foot across his right knee. Merkle uses it as a whetstone, sharpening knives against the hardened sole. However, if the foot be placed in the fire, a sensation of heat is transmitted through the entire body, becoming painful in the immediate neighborhood of the old fracture.

The gentlemen say Merkle is as jolly as the average mortal, and boasts at the idea of placing himself on exhibition in a museum.

"But you could make your fortune," they remonstrated with him.

"Shucks," was the characteristic rejoinder, "what 'ud life be, wuth to a fellow if he jess had to set up an' have his ol' rock foot stard by a gang er tenderfoot gawks fun' mornin' till night?"

#### A Railroad's Profit Sharing Scheme.

For the first time in the history of railroading, railroad employees have been offered an opportunity to try profit sharing with the road for which they work. The Illinois Central, one of the greatest railroad corporations in the world, has just decided to adopt the system, though in a somewhat curious manner.

In an announcement to its employees it offers to permit any one in its employ to purchase shares of stock of the company at a figure far below the regular market rate. Quotations will change with each month, and these changes will be made known to the heads of the Central's departments. The price made at the beginning of each month will stand until the first of the month succeeding.

An employee purchasing stock or a share can pay off if he chooses, or in installments of \$5 per month, or any multiple of \$5. When the share of stock comes to be drawn or blown up, however, gets much comfort to which everyone gives unquestioning theoretical belief and then conducts his affairs on directly contrary principles.

On an ordinary dirt road, according to "The Philadelphia Record," a horse

can draw three times as much weight as he can carry on his back. On a good macadamized road the animal can pull three times as much as on a dirt road, while on an asphalt pavement the power of the horse is multiplied to such a degree that he can draw eleven times as much as on a dirt road, or thirty-three times as much as he can carry on his back. What the road can draw of cities owes to the street railways is illustrated by the computation that on metal rails a horse can draw one and two-thirds times as much as on the best asphalt pavement; four times as much as on Belgian blocks; nine times as much as on cobblestones; twenty times as much as on an earth road, and forty times as much as on sand.

The marked advantage to the employee who takes this offer is evidenced by the fact that all during the time he is paying by installments for a single share he will receive interest on the deposits he makes at the rate of four per cent per annum, provided he does not allow twelve consecutive months to elapse without making any payment. Should he do this—that is, allow the lapse referred to—the payment of interest will cease to accrue, and he will be given whatever sum he has deposited whenever he makes application for the same.—*New York Herald*.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It appears from a recent report of the Interstate Commerce Commission that the dangers of travel upon railways have been considerably reduced by the adoption of block signals, interlocking switches, automatic couplers, vestibule cars and other devices intended to enhance the comfort and safety of passengers and employees. The number of railway employees killed during last year within the limits of the United States was 1,811, and the number